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# DNR Lake Restoration Prioritization Process and Program

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## Key Concepts and Facts

- Six of ten Iowans visit lakes each year; they will visit these lakes eight times during the year
- Iowans prefer lakes with better water quality
- Statewide our lakes generate \$1.6 billion in annual spending by Iowans
- A lake is a reflection of both watershed and lake management
- Lake restoration starts in the watershed; it relies on strong local involvement and voluntary participation of landowners

## Current Prioritization and Program

- Modeled after the Federal Clean Lakes Program established in the 1970s
- IDNR provided the 2006 legislature with a priority list of 35 lake candidates
  - Priorities based on a 5-year ISU/IDNR assessment of water quality
  - Technical feasibility of restoration
  - Potential economic benefits
  - Use by Iowans, and local interest/involvement
- Projects require a lake and watershed restoration assessment and plan
- Projects require local resources in combination with state and federal funds
- Local groups can petition to have their lake added to the priority list
- Project Status
  - 14 Completed or near completion
  - 25 Active projects in-progress
  - 14 Initial public outreach, evaluation or planning stage
- IDNR provides an annual progress report to the legislature that includes a work plan and budget

## Water Quality Goals

Stipulated in 2006 State Legislation (HF2782):

- Delivery of phosphorous and sediment from the watershed will be controlled before lake restoration begins
- Shallow lakes management will be considered among options for restoration
- Water quality targets
  - Clarity. 4 ½ foot water transparency 50% of the time from April – September
  - Biota. A diverse, balanced, and sustainable aquatic community must be maintained
  - Impairment. Water quality impairments must be eliminated
  - Sustainability. The water quality and public use benefits must be sustained for 50 years

## Lake Restoration Program Budget

- State funding from FY2007 through FY2013 of \$52.4 million (average of \$7.5 million per year) has enabled the IDNR to improve many Iowa's lakes and proceed with implementing projects

## IDNR Contacts

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**Web Page:** <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/LakeRestoration.aspx>



Project Name	County	DNR Lake Restoration Program FY14 Budget Scenarios		
Lake Icaria	Adams	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Storm Lake	Buena Vista	\$250,000	\$850,000	\$1,000,000
North_South Twin L.	Calhoun		\$150,000	\$150,000
Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Little River L.	Decatur		\$60,000	\$60,000
IA Great Lakes	Dickinson		\$200,000	\$350,000
Lake Geode	Henry		\$100,000	\$100,000
Mariposa Lake	Jasper			\$200,000
Kent Park L.	Johnson		\$50,000	\$150,000
Central Park L.	Jones		\$240,000	\$340,000
Pleasant Creek L.	Linn			\$200,000
Lake Keomah	Mahaska			\$50,000
Blue Lake	Monona			\$400,000
Five Island L.	Palo Alto	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Lost Island Lake	Palo Alto	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Silver Lake	Palo Alto			\$200,000
Big Creek	Polk		\$200,000	\$200,000
Easter Lake	Polk		\$350,000	\$500,000
Carter Lake	Pottawattamie	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Lake Manawa	Pottawattamie		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Black Hawk L.	Sac		\$300,000	\$300,000
L. of the Hills	Scott		\$50,000	\$150,000
Prairie Rose L.	Shelby		\$550,000	\$550,000
Hickory Grove L.	Story		\$30,000	\$130,000
Union Grove L.	Tama		\$20,000	\$420,000
Lake Assessment			\$50,000	\$100,000
Minors			\$150,000	\$250,000
Shallow Lakes			\$100,000	\$100,000
Proj. Mgmt./Eng.		\$250,000	\$350,000	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$8,600,000</b>

The above significant publicly-owned lakes were prioritized for funding based on the feasibility of each lake for restoration and the use or potential use of the lake, according to Lake Restoration Program guidelines and planning criteria.





